

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An echo processing device for attenuating echo components of a direct signal X1n in a return signal Y2n, said device comprising:

means for calculating a receive gain Gr_n and a send gain Ge_n ;

first gain application means for applying the receive gain Gr_n to the direct signal and producing an input signal X2n emitted into an echo generator system;

second gain application means for applying the send gain Ge_n to an output signal Y1n from the echo generator system and producing the return signal Y2n;
and

means for obtaining a coupling variable COR characteristic of the acoustic coupling between the direct signal X1n or the input signal X2n and the output signal Y1n, by calculating a correlation between the direct signal X1n or the input signal X2n and the output signal Y1n[[,]];:

wherein said gain calculation means ~~being adapted~~ is configured to calculate the receive gain Gr_n and the send gain Ge_n based on said coupling variable.

2. (Original) An echo processing device according to claim 1, comprising means for estimating the instantaneous power of the direct signal X1n or the input signal X2n and the instantaneous power of the output signal Y1n, said gain calculation means being adapted to calculate the receive gain Gr_n and the send gain Ge_n on the basis of a variable G determined as a function of the estimated power of the direct signal or the input signal and the estimated power of the output signal, and as a function of the coupling variable COR, in accordance with the following equation:

$$G = \frac{P2n}{P2n + COR \cdot P1n}$$

where $P1n$ and $P2n$ are respectively an estimate at the time concerned of the power of the direct signal $X1n$ or the input signal $X2n$ and the power of the output signal $Y1n$.

3. (Original) An echo processing device according to claim 2, in which the gain calculation means determine the receive gain Gr_n and the send gain Ge_n recursively from the following equations:

$$Ge_n = \gamma \cdot Ge_{n-1} + (1 - \gamma) \cdot G$$

$$Gr_n = 1 - \delta \cdot Ge_n$$

where Ge_{n-1} is the send gain at the preceding calculation time and γ and δ are positive constants less than 1.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) An echo processing device according to claim 1, in which the calculation of the correlation between the direct signal $X1n$ or the input signal $X2n$ and the output signal $Y1n$ is an envelope correlation calculation.

6. (Original) An echo processing device according to claim 5, in which, in said envelope correlation calculation, the coupling variable COR is a function of the maximum value $Maxcor$ of the values $corr(j)$ of the correlation between the direct signal $X1n$ or the input signal $X2n$ and the output signal $Y1n$, said correlation values $corr(j)$ being calculated over a time window considered, and each being obtained from the equation:

$$corr(j) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{LM-1} P1(i) \cdot P2(i+j)}{\sum_{i=0}^{LM-1} P1^2(i)}$$

in which \underline{j} is a sampling time in the calculation time window of duration LM, \underline{j} is a shift value between the input signal $X2n$ and the output signal $Y1n$, and $P1(t)$ and $P2(t)$ are respectively an estimate of the power of the direct signal $X1n$ or the input signal $X2n$ and an estimate of the power of the output signal $Y1n$ at a time \underline{t} .

7. (Original) An echo processing device according to claim 6, in which the coupling variable COR is linked to the maximum value Maxcor of the correlation values $\text{corr}(j)$ calculated over a calculation time window considered from the equation:

$$COR = \text{Exp}(k.\text{Maxcor})$$

in which Exp is the exponential function and \underline{k} is a positive constant.

8. (Previously presented) An echo processing device according to claim 1, in which the input signal $X2n$ is emitted into the echo generator system by at least one loudspeaker and the output signal $Y1n$ is obtained from the echo generator system by at least one microphone.

9. (Previously Presented) An echo processing device according to claim 1, further comprising an echo canceller receiving at its input said input signal $X2n$ emitted into the echo generator system and a signal $Y3n$ from the echo generator system, the echo canceller comprising a finite impulse response identification filter whose response is representative of the response of the echo generator system, and the identification filter being adapted to generate a filtering signal S_n and comprising means for subtracting the filtering signal S_n from the signal $Y3n$ to produce the output signal $Y1n$ that is received at the input of said send gain application means.

10. (Currently Amended) An echo canceller for attenuating in an output signal $Y1n$ echo components of an input signal $X2n$ emitted into an echo generator system, said device comprising:

a finite impulse response identification filter whose response is representative of the response of the echo generator system, receiving the input signal X2n at its input and generating a filtering signal Sn;

subtraction means receiving at an input a signal Y3n from the echo generator system, at least one component of which is a response of the echo generator system to the input signal X2n, and the filtering signal Sn, and adapted to subtract the filtering signal Sn from the signal Y3n and to produce the output signal Y1n;

means for adapting the coefficients of the identification filter as a function of an adaptation ~~step~~ μ_n ; and

means for calculating the adaptation ~~step~~ μ_n , said adaptation ~~step~~ calculation means comprising means for estimating the power P1n of the input signal X2n and the power P3n of the signal Y3n and means for obtaining a first coupling variable COR2 characteristic of the acoustic coupling between the input signal X2n and the signal Y3n from the echo generator system, by calculating a correlation between the input signal X2n and the signal Y3n[[],];

wherein the adaptation ~~step~~ μ_n of the identification filter ~~being is~~ calculated as a function of the estimated powers P1n, P3n and as a function of the first coupling variable COR2.

11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 10, in which the adaptation ~~step~~ μ_n is obtained from the equation:

$$\mu_n = \frac{P1n}{\alpha \cdot P1n + COR2.P3n}$$

in which α is a positive constant and P1n and P3n are respectively an estimate of the power of the input signal X2n and an estimate of the power of the signal Y3n from the echo generator system at the time concerned.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 10, in which the calculation of the correlation between the input signal X2n and the signal Y3n is an envelope correlation calculation.

14. (Original) A device according to claim 13, in which the first coupling variable COR2 is a function of the maximum value Maxcor2 of correlation values corr2(j) calculated over a time window considered, each of the correlation values corr2(j) being calculated from the following equation:

$$corr2(j) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{LM-1} P1(i) \cdot P3(i + j)}{\sum_{i=0}^{LM-1} P1^2(i)}$$

in which:

i is a sampling time in the calculation time window of duration LM and j is a shift value between the input signal X2n and the signal Y3n; and

P1(t) and P3(t) are respectively an estimate of the power of the input signal X2n and an estimate of the power of the signal Y3n at the time t concerned.

15. (Original) A device according to claim 14, in which the first coupling variable COR2 is linked to the maximum value Maxcor2 of said correlation values corr2(j) by the following equation, in which k is a positive constant:

$$COR2 = \frac{k}{Maxcor2}.$$

16. (Previously presented) An echo canceller according to claim 10, in which the adaptation step calculation means further comprise means for calculating a second coupling variable COR characteristic of the acoustic coupling between the input signal X2n from the echo generator system and the output signal Y1n, the second coupling variable COR being obtained by calculating the correlation between the input signal X2n and the output signal Y1n, and the adaptation step μ_n of the identification filter being calculated as also a function of the second coupling variable COR.

17. (Original) An echo canceller according to claim 16, in which the second coupling variable COR is obtained from an envelope correlation calculation between the input signal X2n and the output signal Y1n.

18. (Previously Presented) An echo canceller according to claim 17, in which the second coupling variable COR is a function of the maximum value Maxcor of the values corr(j) of the correlation between the input signal X2n and the output signal Y1n, said correlation values corr(j) being calculated over a time window considered and each of them being obtained from the equation:

$$\text{corr}(j) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{LM-1} P1(i) \cdot P2(i + j)}{\sum_{i=0}^{LM-1} P1^2(i)}$$

in which j is a sampling time in the calculation window of duration LM, j is a shift value between the input signal X2n and the output signal Y1n, and $P1(t)$ and $P2(t)$ are respectively an estimate of the power of the input signal X2n and an estimate of the power of the output signal Y1n at a time t .

19. (Previously presented) An echo canceller according to claim 16, in which the

adaptation step μ_n is calculated from the equation:

$$\mu_n = \frac{COR}{COR2} \cdot \frac{P1n}{\alpha \cdot P1n + COR2 \cdot P3n}$$

in which α is a positive constant and $P1n$ and $P3n$ are respectively an estimate of the power of the input signal $X2n$ and an estimate of the power of the signal $Y3n$ from the echo generator system at the time concerned.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An echo processing device for a multichannel communications system comprising N receive channels, N being an integer greater than or equal to 2, and M send channels, M being an integer greater than or equal to 1, each of the N receive channels i comprising an output transducer (LS*i*) that produces a sound pressure wave in response to an input signal $X2n(i)$ derived from a direct signal $X1n(i)$, each of the M send channels j comprising an input transducer (MC*j*) that converts a sound pressure wave into an output signal $Y1n(j)$, said echo processing device being adapted to attenuate in each output signal $Y1n(j)$ echo components stemming from some or all of the N input signals $X2n(i)$ and resulting from the acoustic coupling between the input transducer of the send channel concerned and some or all of the M output transducers, said device comprising:

means for calculating receive gains $Gr_n(i)$ and send gains $Ge_n(j)$;

means for applying receive gains $Gr_n(i)$ to each direct signal $X1n(i)$ and producing a corresponding input signal $X2n(i)$;

means for applying send gains $Ge_n(j)$ to each output signal $Y1n(j)$ and producing the corresponding return signal $Y2n(j)$; and

means for calculating, for each send channel j , N coupling variables

$\text{COR}(j,i)$, for i varying from 1 to N , each of which being characteristic of the acoustic coupling between the output signal $Y_{1n}(j)$ of the send channel and one of the N input signals $X_{2n}(i)$, each coupling variable $\text{COR}(j,i)$ being obtained by calculating a correlation between the corresponding output signal $Y_{1n}(j)$ and the corresponding input signal $X_{2n}(i)$;

wherein said gain calculation means ~~being adapted~~ is configured to calculate each receive gain $G_{r_n}(i)$ and each send gain $G_{e_n}(j)$ based on the N coupling variables $\text{COR}(j,i)$ calculated for the associated send channel j .

23. (Original) A device according to claim 22, comprising means for estimating the instantaneous power P_{1n_i} of each input signal $X_{2n}(i)$ and the instantaneous power P_{2n_j} of each output signal $Y_{1n}(j)$, said send gain calculation means being adapted to calculate each send gain $G_{e_n}(j)$ on the basis of N variables $G(j,i)$, for i varying from 1 to N , each of which is determined as a function of the estimated power of an input signal $X_{2n}(i)$ and the estimated power of the output signal $Y_{1n}(j)$ of the send channel concerned and as a function of the corresponding coupling variable $\text{COR}(j,i)$, each of the variables $G(j,i)$ being obtained from the following equation:

$$G(j,i) = \frac{P_{2n_j}}{P_{2n_j} + \text{COR}(j,i) \cdot P_{1n_i}}$$

in which P_{1n_i} and P_{2n_j} are respectively an estimate of the power of the input signal $X_{2n}(i)$ concerned and an estimate of the power of the output signal $Y_{1n}(j)$ concerned at the time concerned.

24. (Original) A device according to claim 23, in which each send gain $G_{e_n}(j)$ is determined from the minimum value of the N variables $G(j,i)$, for i varying from 1 to N , calculated for the associated send channel j .

25. (Original) A device according to claim 24, in which each send gain $Ge_n(j)$ is determined from the equation:

$$Ge_n(j) = \gamma \cdot Ge_{n-1}(j) + (1 - \gamma) \cdot \min_i(G(j,i))$$

in which $Ge_{n-1}(j)$ is the send gain of the send channel j at the time of the preceding calculation, γ is a positive constant less than 1, and $\min_i(G(j,i))$ is the minimum value of the N variables $G(j,i)$ for i varying from 1 to N .

26. (Original) A device according to claim 25, in which all the receive gains $Gr_n(i)$ have the same value, which is determined from the equation:

$$Gr_n(i) = 1 - \delta \cdot \max_j(Ge_n(j))$$

in which δ is a positive constant less than 1 and $\max_j(Ge_n(j))$ is the maximum value of the M send gains $Ge_n(j)$, for j varying from 1 to M .

27. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, in which each of said receive gains $Gr_n(i)$ is equal to 1.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 22, in which the calculation of the correlation between an output signal $Y1n(j)$ and an input signal $X2n(i)$ is an envelope correlation calculation.

30. (Original) A device according to claim 29, in which, in said envelope correlation calculation, each coupling variable $COR(j,i)$ is a function of the maximum value $Maxcor$ of the values $corr_{ji}(d)$ of the correlation between the output signal $Y1n(j)$ and the input signal $X2n(i)$, said correlation values $corr_{ji}(d)$ being calculated over a predefined time window and each obtained from the equation:

$$corr_{ji}(d) = \frac{\sum_{c=0}^{LM-1} P1n_i(c) \cdot P2n_j(c+d)}{\sum_{c=0}^{LM-1} P1n_i^2(c)}$$

in which c is a sampling time in the calculation time window of duration LM , d is a shift value between the input signal $X2n(i)$ and the output signal $Y1n(j)$, and $P1n_i(t)$ and $P2n_j(t)$ are respectively an estimate of the power of the input signal $X2n(i)$ and an estimate of the power of the output signal $Y1n(j)$ at a time t .

31. (Currently Amended) An echo canceller for a multichannel communications system comprising N receive channels, N being an integer greater than or equal to 2, and M send channels, M being an integer greater than or equal to 1, each of the N receive channels i comprising an output transducer (LSi) that produces a sound pressure wave in response to an input signal $X2n(i)$, and each of the M send channels j comprising an input transducer (MCj) that converts a sound pressure wave into an output signal $Y1n(j)$, the echo canceller comprising:

for each send channel j , N identification filters Fij with variable coefficients for estimating the acoustic coupling between each of the N output transducers (LSi) and the input transducer (MCj) of the send channel j , and

for each filter Fij , means for adapting the coefficients of the filter as a function of an adaptation step $\mu_n(i,j)$ and means for calculating the adaptation step $\mu_n(i,j)$,

means for estimating the instantaneous power $P1n_i$ of each input signal

X2n(i) and the instantaneous power P2nj of each output signal Y1n(j), and

means for calculating, for each send channel j , N coupling variables $COR(j,i)$, for i varying from 1 to N , each of which being characteristic of the acoustic coupling between the output signal $Y1n(j)$ of the send channel j and one of the N input signals $X2n(i)$, each coupling variable $COR(j,i)$ being obtained by calculating a correlation between the output signal $Y1n(j)$ and the input signal $X2n(i)[[.,.]]$;

wherein the means for calculating the adaptation step $\mu_n(i,j)$ for a filter Fij associated with a receive channel i and a send channel j ~~being adapted is configured~~ to calculate the adaptation step $\mu_n(i,j)$ as a function of the powers $P1n_i$, for i varying from 1 to N , estimated for the N receive channels, as a function of the estimated power $P2nj$ of the send channel j , and as a function of the N coupling variables $COR(j,i)$, for i varying from 1 to N , associated with the send channel j .

32. (Original) A device according to claim 31, in which an adaptation step $\mu_n(i,j)$ for a filter Fij associated with a receive channel i and a send channel j is obtained from the following equation, in which b_i is a positive constant:

$$\mu_n(i,j) = \frac{P1n_i}{b_i \cdot P1n_i + COR(j,i) \cdot P2n_j + \sum_{k \neq i} COR(j,k) \cdot P1n_k}.$$

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 31, in which the calculation of the correlation between the output signal $Y1n(j)$ and the input signal $X2n(i)$ is an envelope correlation calculation.

35. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 34, in which the coupling variable COR(j,i) is a function of the maximum value Maxcor(j,i) of the correlation values corr_{ji}(d), calculated over a time window considered, each of the correlation values corr_{ji}(d) being calculated from the equation:

$$corr_{ji}(d) = \frac{\sum_{c=0}^{LM-1} P1n_i(c) \cdot P2n_j(c+d)}{\sum_{c=0}^{LM-1} P1n_i^2(c)}$$

in which c is a sampling time in the calculation time window of duration LM, d is a shift value between the input signal X2n(i) and the output signal Y1n(j), and P1n_i(t) and P2n_j(t) are respectively an estimate of the power of the input signal X2n(i) and an estimate of the power of the output signal Y1n(j) at a time t.

36. (Original) A device according to claim 35, in which the coupling variable COR(j,i) is linked to the maximum value Maxcor(j,i) of said correlation values corr_{ji}(d) by the following equation, in which k is a positive constant:

$$COR(j,i) = \frac{k}{Maxcor(j,i)}.$$

37. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 31, in which each filter F_{ij} associated with a receive channel i and a send channel j generates a filtering signal that is subtracted from the output signal Y1n(j) to provide a filtered signal Y2n(j),

said device further comprising means for calculating, for each send channel j, N second coupling variables COR2(j,i), for i varying from 1 to N, each of which being characteristic of the acoustic coupling between the filtered signal Y2n(j) from the send channel and one of the N input signals X2n(i), the

adaptation step $\mu_n(i,j)$ of an identification filter F_{ij} associated with a receive channel i and a send channel j being calculated also as a function of said N second coupling variables $COR2(j,i)$.

38. (Original) A device according to claim 37, in which an adaptation step $\mu_n(i,j)$ for a filter F_{ij} associated with a receive channel i and a send channel j is obtained from the following equation, in which b_i is a positive constant:

$$\mu_n(i,j) = \frac{COR(j,i)}{COR2(j,i)} \cdot \frac{P1n_i}{b_i \cdot P1n_i + COR(j,i) \cdot P2n_j + \sum_{k \neq i} COR(j,k) \cdot P1n_k}$$

39. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 37, further comprising, for each pair comprising a receive channel i and a send channel j , gain application means for applying a receive gain $Gr_n(i)$ to the input signal $X2n(i)$ and a send gain $Ge_n(j)$ to the filtered signal $Y2n(j)$, said gains $Gr_n(i)$, $Ge_n(j)$ being calculated on the basis of the N second coupling variables $COR2(j,i)$ determined for the send channel j .

40. (Currently Amended) An echo processing device for attenuating echo components of a direct signal $X1n$ in a return signal $Y2n$, said device comprising:

means for calculating a receive gain Gr_n and a send gain Ge_n ;

first gain application means for applying the receive gain Gr_n to the direct signal and producing an input signal $X2n$ emitted into an echo generator system;

second gain application means for applying the send gain Ge_n to an output signal $Y1n$ from the echo generator system and producing the return signal $Y2n$;

means for obtaining a first coupling variable COR characteristic of the acoustic coupling between the direct signal $X1n$ or the input signal $X2n$ and the output signal $Y1n$, by calculating the correlation between the direct signal $X1n$ or the input signal $X2n$ and the output signal $Y1n$, said gain calculation means being

adapted to calculate the receive gain Gr_n and the send gain Ge_n based on said first coupling variable COR; and

an echo canceller receiving at its input said input signal $X2n$ emitted into the echo generator system and a signal $Y3n$ from the echo generator system,

the echo canceller comprising:

a finite impulse response identification filter whose response is representative of the response of the echo generator system, the identification filter being adapted to generate a filtering signal Sn and comprising means for subtracting the filtering signal Sn from the signal $Y3n$ to produce said output signal $Y1n$ that is received at the input of said second gain application means,

means for adapting the coefficients of the identification filter as a function of an adaptation step μ_n ; and

means for calculating the adaptation step μ_n , said adaptation step calculation means comprising means for estimating the power $P1n$ of the input signal $X2n$ or the direct signal $X1n$ and the power $P3n$ of the signal $Y3n$, and means for obtaining a second coupling variable $COR2$ characteristic of the acoustic coupling between the input signal $X2n$ or the direct signal $X1n$, and the signal $Y3n$ from the echo generator system, by calculating a correlation between the input signal $X2n$ or the direct signal $X1n$, and the signal $Y3n[[],]$;

wherein the adaptation step μ_n of the identification filter ~~being~~ is calculated as a function of the estimated powers $P1n$, $P3n$ and as a function of said second coupling variable $COR2$.

41. (Previously Presented) An echo processing device according to claim 40, in which said adaptation step μ_n of the identification filter is calculated also as a function of the first coupling variable COR .